

AGN. NO. _____

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH

February 24, 2004

In February of 2003, the Neighborhood Legal Services of Los Angeles County (NLS) received a grant from the California State Bar to establish the Antelope Valley Self-Help Legal Access Center (AV SHLAC) at the Palmdale Court two days a week.

NLS has received grant funding for the second year in a row for 2004 and is presently operating out of the Michael D. Antonovich Antelope Valley Courthouse in Lancaster two days a week.

During the past year, the AV SHLAC provided assistance to over 4,267 individuals and families despite limited publicity. Currently, an average of 70 people visit the AV SHLAC each day it is open. Neighboring office staff and other Court personnel are daily witnesses to the demand for the only free legal assistance available in the Antelope Valley.

The Cost for running the AV SHLAC for an additional three days a week (full-time), through the end of the grant funding, which expires December 31, 2004, is approximately \$64,260.

In 2000, the SHLAC was initiated as a pilot program at the Van Nuys Court for a period of two years. Subsequently, in recognition of its success and importance, the Board voted to extend the program at the Van Nuys Court and to expand it to the Pomona and Inglewood Courts. The current contract for the three Courts runs from September 1, 2003 through August 31, 2004, for a total cost of \$698,000.

- M O R E -

Supplementing the grant funds received by NLS to operate the AV SHLAC on a full-time

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basis will greatly benefit the Antelope Valley community. Moreover, the AV SHLAC will operate at a much lower cost than the three existing centers that are funded entirely by net county cost.

I, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors direct the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) and the Director of the Department of Consumer Affairs (DDCA) to prepare a joint report due in one week as follows:

1. CAO to identify the source for the \$64,260 necessary for running the Antelope Valley Self-Help Legal Access Center three days a week (with the remaining two days funded through a grant from the California State Bar); and,
2. DDCA, as the program administrator, to work with Neighborhood Legal Services and the Superior Court to identify the best and most expeditious manner in which to establish the Antelope Valley Self-Help Legal Access Center.

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MDA:aplmc

Neighborhood Legal Services of LA County (NLS) 2-24-04